

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, the 30th May 1946.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at four of the clock, the Chairman (SRI K. NATARAJAN) in the Chair.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

I.—MOTION *RE* FOOD AND CLOTH SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE—*cont.*

* SRI RAO BAHADUR D. KRISHNAMURTHI :—“ Mr. Chairman, I rise to support the draft proposals of the Government. But in doing so, I like to make a few observations. Let me, at the outset, state that the present deplorable situation is the result of several causes and is a legacy to this Ministry. One of the primary duties of a civilized government is to cater to the people's immediate and urgent needs. Government would be failing in their duty if they cannot do this duty satisfactorily. They must, therefore, concentrate all their attention to prevent the impending disaster of famine and deaths through starvation. I do not want that the unfortunate and deplorable situation in which the people of Bengal found themselves two years ago should arise here in Madras. I was staying in Calcutta at that time and having witnessed heart-rending scenes there, I do not want that Madras should suffer in a similar manner. How to tide over the difficulty is the question. Can we get enough paddy, rice, wheat or other cereals to meet the situation? Within the short period of two or three months, it is not possible to grow enough food to save the country. Fortunately, last night's papers tell us that shipments are coming—shipments of paddy and rice, wheat and other foodgrains. I say that we must not be on tenterhooks in regard to the question of food; we should approach every quarter and get more and more food to help ourselves. Our esteemed countryman, the Hon. Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, is in America pleading for India's food supply. As matters stand to-day, no doubt there is not satisfactory progress in spite of his strenuous efforts in this direction. I hope and trust that he would be able to help us to tide over the present difficult situation. A suggestion was made by my hon. Friend, the representative of European interests, that in order to discourage food offences like hoarding and profiteering, whipping and even shooting should be resorted to. I agree with the view, but the punishment suggested seems to me to be a very extreme type. Drastic measures have to be taken with a view to prevent hoarding and profiteering.

“ I now take up the question of substitutes for rice. I am very glad to find that the Hon. the Premier wants to continue the present ration of 12 ounces per adult in the urban areas, but out of it 2 ounces has to be wheat. There seems to be some doubt in

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some quarters that wheat diet is not suitable to health, but I may say for the information of the House that wheat is a much better food and is more useful and healthy than rice. I myself have taken to wheat diet and have been on wheat for a number of years and I am not any the worse for it. In the beginning for a fortnight or so, there may be some difficulty, but as time goes on, one is accustomed to it and he will not like to give it up. I suggest that not only wheat but also rava, *nooka* or broken wheat, should be distributed in the 2 ounces quota so that food may be prepared, as rice is prepared and used. I should congratulate the Government if with all these measures they are able to carry on till October and avoid a food crisis or breakdown.

“Regarding short-term crops Government must come forward with a liberal scheme of bonus. The financial position of Government is sound and after having had experience of the situation in Bengal during the last famine, the Madras Government should not be close-fisted in the matter of distribution of bonus and it should be given on a more liberal scale, so that production might be speeded up to the maximum.

“I now come to the problem of cloth supply. Thirty yards of cloth for each individual for a year fixed by experts is not certainly a high standard for us as compared with 42 or 55 yards per head used in other civilized countries. Compared with the cloth requirements of other countries, our supply position is very low, but it has to be remembered that in a hot country like ours, men will not die for want of clothes. We can reduce the use of cloth to a minimum. The Travancore Government have adopted a dhoti, a jubba, and an upper cloth (if necessary) as the standard dress. Some such standard may be adopted for Government officers so that economy in the use of cloth may be encouraged.

“I would earnestly request Government to pay sufficient attention to the distribution of handloom cloth. The price of handloom cloth has gone considerably high. I went round the other day to purchase a seven-yard saree to the Swadeshi Emporium and the Co-operative Sales Emporium. The salesman told me that an ordinary saree of 60 or 80 counts yarn would cost something like 16 to 18 rupees and for the Coimbatore variety, the cost would be 25 to 40 rupees. I did not make any purchase, but began wondering how a person who receives a salary of Rs. 50 or 70 per mensem could buy any clothing for his wife and members of his family—let us not talk about the superior kind of cloth when one cannot afford to purchase even the bare requirements. When questioned about the high price, the gentleman told me that that price represented only the cost price and a bare margin of profit. It is very refreshing to be told by the Hon. the Premier in these circumstances that a reduction of 15 per cent in the price of handloom cloth is contemplated. But seeing that the prices of handloom cloth have gone up by about 300 per cent, reduction of 15 per cent from the present rate may seem rather small. I would request that the reduction be increased to 25 per cent. The reduction, if any, should not touch the weavers because they are

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a very poor community and Government must come forward and meet the difference between the production and sale prices by way of bounties. There should be no reduction in the wages of the weaver. If reduction of price is imposed on production, the weaver will not be able to make both ends meet.

“Another difficulty in regard to handloom cloth is that weavers at present resort to inferior and dishonest methods of weaving. The warp and woof are not uniformly woven throughout; they are closely woven at both ends but not so in the middle of the cloth. In normal times, the merchant has the right and option to reject the inferior cloth; but not so in the present situation. Any cloth is accepted and passed on. I suggest that the Textiles Department will kindly devote their attention to this matter.

“The Madras Government have submitted themselves to the rules and arrangements of the Government of India Textiles Department in handing over a large quantity of yarn produced in this Presidency. Are we not entitled to put forward our case for a larger quota of mill yarn to supplement our handloom industry? I believe the Madras Government can agitate for it because they have got the weapon of non-co-operation in their hands. It is also necessary that we should get more quota of mill cloth as a measure of compensation for the large quantity of yarn taken away from us.

“The situation in which we find ourselves to-day imperatively requires that we should devote our time and attention to planning and reorganization of our production in order to make our province self-sufficient in food and cloth. This is a very intricate problem and has to be taken up once for all after much consideration. Marshal Stalin of Russia is the gentleman in Europe who first started the programme of a five-year plan. When it was first started, it was considered to be impracticable and unworkable. By ruthless energy and foresight, his planning was carried through, much to the amazement and surprise of the whole world. It is only periodical planning that can promote large-scale industry and relieve human suffering and raise the standard of living. The Madras Government have got facts and figures at their disposal which will indicate to them the possible, nay, sure lines of advance.

“There is to-day available for cultivation more than 21 million acres of land in this province besides the already irrigated areas of 37,000,000 acres. I am aware that all these areas cannot be brought under cultivation by a stroke of the pen immediately. Vigorous steps have to be taken to bring this vast acreage under cultivation so that we can have more food grain.

“Then there is the question of improving the method of cultivation. I shall just compare the figures of production in our country with those of other countries in 1939 per acre in tons. I take the case of wheat first; 0.37 is grown in the United States of America. In India 0.35 is grown. Australia grows 0.42. In other words, our production of wheat is not very bad. But in the

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case of rice it is certainly deplorable. The following are the figures with regard to rice :—

United States of America	...	...	1.01
Japan	...	...	1.61
India	...	...	0.35

Here is a case for examination and study.

“ With regard to sugar, United States of America yield is 20.06. Java yields 54.91; India yields 12.66; with regard to cotton the figures for the United States of America is 0.11, Japan 0.23 and India 0.04. The rate of production in other countries is very high and our production rate is very low. It is a question for us to consider whether we cannot bring our land to yield in a similar manner.

“ Scientists have opined that human beings, in order to keep themselves in good health, require a quantity of food which has an energy value 2,800 calories per head per day. A mixed diet capable of yielding the required energy should be made available to our people. It has been worked out that a sum of Rs. 65 per year will be required per head for a mixed food capable of yielding 2,800 calories of energy. It is a good ideal to be adopted by us. It is not difficult for us to reach this standard. We are to-day more than 50 millions in this province and we have got resources enough. A number of irrigation schemes have been prepared by the Adviser Government and some of them are awaiting execution at the hands of the present Ministry. I suppose that this Government will venture upon a bold plan for the future and rise equal to the occasion. They should have a Central Advisory Planning Board for this purpose for this province. Perfect and large-scale planning for the whole province should be at once thought of so that the Government may have at their disposal advice for co-ordination, co-operation and execution of all their plans. With this idea, I have placed this suggestion of the formation of an Expert Advisory Board before the Government for what it is worth in the hope that they will examine it at once and arrive at a speedy decision. I am sure very likely they will accept my proposal.

“ Now let me revert to the draft proposals of the Government contained in the note circulated to us. Government propose to bring into existence a number of committees, the village committees, the taluk committees and the district committees and above all at the centre perhaps a committee of the Government itself looking into the matter with care and attention. Viewed from one standpoint, this attempt on the part of the Government to take the people of the province into their confidence is to harness every unit of energy and resource available and utilize the same in tiding over the impending economic crisis. But I am afraid the actual working of the committees may give rise to troubles and misunderstandings. We all know in villages landowners of large tracts are the biggest producers. Naturally the village officers will be their friends and other Revenue officers will always be guided by the advice of the big landlords. The Revenue department is generally *persona grata* with these big land-owners in the taluks.

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Under these peculiar circumstances, as matters stand to-day, I am afraid these committees will not function in the spirit in which they are proposed to be formed. Steps have to be taken to prevent misuse or abuse of the powers of these committees and also ill-treatment of villagers, small land-owners especially members of the backward communities and scheduled castes. No poor ryot will be bold enough to say anything about the big landlords in the village in matters of hoarding and profiteering. Suppose there is a ryot owning 40 acres of land and he has a big underground granary. If any poor small ryot reveals this to the village officers or to the higher revenue officers, we know what will happen to him. He will be socially boycotted, and every attempt will be made to ruin him completely. I am not saying this to discourage the proposals, but I am pointing out this defect, so that what is intended to be gained by the scheme may not be destroyed by tactics and machinations. In a country where all are saints, there may not be much room for an audit department; but knowing as we do, our own failings, I fear if we allow matters to drift, we may not be able to get what is expected of these committees, unless these village committees are organized properly. With these observations, I request that the draft proposals of the Government may be adopted and be given a fair and decent trial to tide over the present crisis. I wish the Government all success in their endeavours in this matter and I shall be watching them with care and attention in their progress."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Don't be watching me, but be doing something."

SRI RAO BAHADUR D. KRISHNAMURTHI:—"Yes, my co-operation and support are always available to Government."

* SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"Sir, I have been listening to the speeches of the previous speakers for the last two days and I find to my utter disappointment that much emphasis has not been laid on the producers. Almost all the members had emphasized only the consumer's point of view, as though the producer is there only to do the bidding of the consumer. I really cannot understand as to why the producer alone should be subject to such severe penalty. We all know we live in a capitalist state. If all of us are living in a state of society where we are paid for the services we render, then, I can understand this onerous burden being laid on the cultivator. He has always been in debt and in penury. All these 200 years his condition has not improved. Only during the course of the late war the villager has been getting a high price for his produce. Only in the previous Congress regime an attempt was made to wipe off the debt of the agriculturist; yet in some cases the debt has not been wiped off; it has only been reduced in most cases. It is only the last war that has enabled him to wipe off his debt. All the members have said that the prices of goods should be so controlled as to be within the reach of the poor and the rich, and they have also compared with the agriculturist the condition of the public services. When the salary of the Ministers was being discussed in this House, most Muslim members

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pressed the claims of the public services, as to how they could eke out their livelihood and as to how they would be able to balance their family budget when prices of articles have doubled or trebled. There is security of tenure for them; so long as the Government lasts, they can draw their salary. But what about the poor agriculturist? Is there any guarantee that there will be a bumper harvest next year? So far as I know, where there are irrigation projects the ryot may get his normal return. But in the case of dry lands it is not possible to guarantee the yield every year. Once every five years the ryot has to face a famine, and that is why so many famine schemes have been started. Yesterday I was listening to an able speech delivered by a European member. I suppose he did not mean that the actual cultivator should not get the benefit of the high price of foodgrain. When all people have participated in this war, I don't know why the agriculturist should be refused his benefit. Then, with regard to the methods adopted to induce the ryot to take to production of food crops, I have to submit the previous Government did not achieve their purpose. I know that has been the legacy left to the present Ministry by the previous Government. I know what difficulties the ryots had had to undergo then. I live in a place in Cuddapah opposite to the District Agriculture office. I have seen people coming in long streams to purchase manure and implements. They come in large groups, wait for two or three days, and yet they do not get the quota of manure or the implements. I have seen some instances where the aid of the police had to be requisitioned to maintain order. In some instances police batons had to be used to keep the villagers away. And yet the revenue officials reported they did everything to help the agriculturists. Such things might happen hereafter also. I am saying this only to show that the villager cannot take advantage of the scheme merely by the plan formulated. There ought to be something more.

“ Then, with regard to another aspect of this scheme. These committees if properly worked can be utilized for other purposes also. They might be given the important function of distribution of sugar and kerosene. In the past there have been several places where no kerosene and sugar were available. It is only after the advent of the Congress Ministry, village officers have promised to supply people with sugar and kerosene. Still it is to come in some areas, even though two months have elapsed. Therefore, I submit, prompt steps should be taken to see that kerosene and sugar are immediately distributed to people in rural areas, as otherwise the enthusiasm to work village committees may not be forthcoming.

“ Then with regard to long range plans, I have to submit one thing, and that is, the price of foodstuffs varies from year to year and from season to season. This Government is interested in improving the lot of the people not only for this particular year, but for all time to come. So let us start from now to do it. But how shall we do it? I submit there should be a price control committee that should fix prices of foodgrains, and the prices they fix should be such as to give a minimum living wage to the

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people who produce the grains. I know there is at present an unusual demand for foodgrains on account of the fact that the war has intervened, but in normal times the price of foodstuffs will not be so high as at present. So far the ryot has been paid only the actual cost of production. I hope hereafter at least the farmer would be guaranteed a particular cost of production so that he may be able to live out of the produce he produces. That policy should be enunciated from now. Unless that is done, the farmer will not be induced to produce more food. Another suggestion made is that the farmer should be prevented from growing commercial crops, like groundnut, cotton and so on; and this is only to prevent him from reaping more benefit than he is legitimately entitled. I fear that policy may not yield very good results. With regard to the long-range policy, I agree with most of my hon. Friends that irrigation projects should be undertaken. The policy that has been pursued by the Madras Government has been niggardly. They have always started irrigation projects with the idea of getting profits from them. They should give up that idea and wherever it is possible, they should start irrigation projects irrespective of the fact whether they would yield any interest or not. Otherwise every year they should go on spending some amount whenever there is famine. Therefore I submit for the consideration of this House that if the Government are really interested in improving the condition of the people, immediately they should start irrigation projects. There are very many projects in the Cuddapah district, and they have been given up simply because no interest would accrue to the Government from them. I submit, Sir, that all these projects should be taken up.

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"I also submit that though the Revenue department in some cases is interested, with very many motives, in producing more foodgrains, it induces the ryots to start sowing in unusual periods. The Public Works Department does not wholly co-operate with the Revenue department. I know an instance very recently where the Revenue department induced the ryots at the Cuddapah tank bed to grow paddy and also ragi. The tank had to be filled by water flowing from the Cuddapah-Kurnool channel. Generally by the 25th of April, the water in the channel would be allowed to flow. They stopped the flow of water for the purpose of repair, and even before the 25th of April, the Revenue authorities asked the ryots to grow some food crops. On the 25th or 26th of April, no water was allowed into the tank and the tank became dry so much so that the crops induced to be grown by the Revenue authorities became dry. The paddy crop is a complete failure, and probably the ragi crop will fetch about half the yield. Therefore I submit, Sir, that the local officials do not heartily co-operate with one another, they try to put spokes in the wheel, and they do not want to encourage the schemes. It is for the Hon. the Premier to look into the matter and issue such instructions as are necessary.

"Then with regard to the calculation of ration. The reduced ration of ten ounces is not sufficient. It is all right for people living in towns. But people living in villages, who are manual

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labourers, cannot live on this scanty ration. So far as persons living in towns are concerned, they go to the hotels and eat, and they can have coffee, tea, biscuits, etc. So far as the manual labourer is concerned, he is poor, he cannot command more comforts and more money. Therefore I want that his ration should be increased.

“ The producer of cholam and some of the dry grains is not getting all the advantages that he is entitled to. I know, Sir, that in those places, these producers of cholam are accustomed to eat rice; but on account of the transport regulations, they are not entitled to exchange their cholam for rice, and they are prevented from taking rice. It will be very hard. When grains are being produced, when the producer gives some cholam, why should he not be allowed to take some paddy in return for his cholam? I submit that he may be allowed to exchange.

“ There is also another point, Sir. Cotton seeds are used as fodder for the cattle. Now, on account of the fact that cotton is being prohibited from being sold or on account of the fact that the cotton crop is a failure, the peasant is not able to feed the cattle. When he is not able to get cotton seeds, he generally feeds his cattle with cholam. In calculating the amount of grain that shall be left with the peasant, the grain that should be left for feeding the cattle is not being taken ordinarily into consideration. I submit, Sir, that if you have no cattle, you cannot get all these lands under cultivation, and the Grow More Food campaign or even producing food would become a failure. Therefore I submit this point for the consideration of the Hon. the Premier.

“ Only one more point, Mr. President, Sir. With regard to the weavers, they have been suffering a lot. As I said, it is the peasant and the weaver that have suffered so long. Now so much yarn is produced in the mills of this Presidency. It is unnecessary that we should export the yarn. If all this yarn is allowed to be kept, the weaver will have work throughout the month and he can earn a decent, living wage. Therefore, I submit that early steps be taken for preventing this yarn being taken outside.”

MR. CHAIRMAN (SRI K. NATARAJAN) :—“ Hon. Members may remember that yesterday the Hon. the President fixed a 10-minute time limit. Later on it was found that 10 minutes might not be enough. Therefore I propose to fix as the utmost a 15-minute time limit, and I seek the co-operation of all the hon. Members to confine themselves to that limit as far as possible. I have got here a number of names given to me. I am reading them strictly in the order in which they have been given to me.”

* SRI G. VENKATA REDDI :—“ It is a welcome feature on the part of my Premier and his colleagues to have come out with these proposals. I heartily welcome them. I belong to the Anantapur district where pestilence and famine reign supreme. The sad plight of my district is well known and it needs many days to be narrated. The Premier knows the plight of my people. Secondly, the people in the district are facing not only the food

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and cloth famine but also scarcity of fodder. It is not an exaggeration to say that hundreds of cattle are dead by now and thousands of cattle are on the verge of leaving this world. The famine of fodder was so acute that only very recently lorry-loads were being rushed on the eve of His Excellency the Governor's visit to certain taluks of my district. It was brought to the notice of the district head of Anantapur and then only were the lorry-loads rushed to certain taluks. There exist no projects in my district. Nor is my district an industrial one. Their occupation is agriculture and that too with bullock-drawn mholes, that is, by well-irrigation. In my district, only two taluks have got cultivation depending upon rain because there is black cotton soil there. The rest of the seven taluks are dependent upon well-irrigation and thus water has to be drawn by bullocks, the prices of which, I need not tell you, have risen to six to eight times. There are only a very few tanks existing in my district. They are seldom filled up and in case they are filled, water won't suffice for the full crop. I have not for the past three or four years seen cultivation under many tanks. The crops have withered away. Unless the tanks are twice filled up, there will be no crop. That is so far as cultivation goes. Now, as far as these proposals are concerned, I submit that the producers' point of view has to be taken into consideration. The success and the workability of these proposals depend mainly upon the agriculturist. He is the producer. What is the all round encouragement that has been shown by these proposals to the producer? I am only talking of my district where people depend upon well-irrigation. We have no tanks and we are told there is sub-soil water in my district. I only submit the conditions of my district with the request to the Premier to open negotiations with the Mysore Government who are ready to part with their power and have already accepted to give power to the Hindupur taluk. The agriculturist must be given free loans for digging up wells. As far as my district is concerned, I may tell you to dig up a well,—I being a part-time agriculturist and I may say with confidence,—it will cost Rs. 1,800 to Rs. 2,000. In seven taluks of my district at least, this amount would be needed for digging these wells. I know Rs. 300 is being granted by Government. But in my district Rs. 2,000 is the minimum amount for digging a well. Discrimination has to be shown as far as such districts are concerned. As regards encouragement to be given to the producer, the agriculturist must be given at least Rs. 1,000 free and another Rs. 1,000 loan, repayable in twenty yearly instalments. So far as power is concerned, negotiations should be started at once. I had occasion to meet a high official of the Mysore State when he visited my district and he told me that if negotiations are started my district will get more power. Then, Sir, certain projects have been ordered to be investigated in my district and such investigation has been suddenly stopped for reasons best known to themselves. I wish to specially appeal to the Premier with regard to the free grant of Rs. 1,000 repayable in instalments and the need for immediate negotiation being started with the Mysore Government for electric power. There is also the question of fodder

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that has to be viewed seriously and urgent action to be taken. Regarding the tanks that exist, at least the silt must be removed and the feeder channels must be cleared and then only the agriculturist will have the incentive and encouragement to work these proposals. With these words, I give my whole-hearted support to the proposals."

* KHAN BAHADUR V. HAMEED SULTAN MARICAIR SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ The proposals presented to the Council by the Government with regard to the food administration are not only unworkable but are also ineffective to tackle the impending crisis in food and cloth. As the hon. Members who have spoken previously have dealt with the questions exhaustively, I have very little to add to what they have said. I only wish to make a few suggestions.

“ The present crisis in the food and cloth situation requires immediate attention, and it is necessary that a board consisting of major political parties of Provincial Legislature be constituted for the province to deal with the questions relating to food and cloth as per amendment moved by my leader the hon. Mr. Uppi Sahib.

“ The Premier's suggestion for constituting village, taluk and district committees is unworkable for various reasons. The existing machinery in my opinion should not be scrapped while we are on the eve of a crisis, especially when it has worked satisfactorily. Defects in the present system may be rectified. It is not advisable, I would submit, Sir, to change the horse in the midstream. The very fact that there has not been any appreciable number of prosecutions against the wholesalers shows that they are not responsible for blackmarketing. Any attempt to substitute them by the newly proposed committees, agents or co-operative societies is sure to produce dangerous results, because raw and unexperienced men will take the place of experienced men of the trade and local factions, personal animosities and political enmities will be given full play. Any such course would only be playing with human lives. I would also point out that the allotment of food-grains to this province by the Central Government is not at all sufficient. It is therefore necessary that no particle of food should be exported from the province, and that the Government should fight for more quota for the province. Attention should also be directed to fallow lands consisting of about 9 million acres and cultivable lands consisting of about 11 million acres; because the question facing us is how to get more grain. With regard to the sinking of wells, the present arrangement is not attractive. As an emergent measure the Government should undertake the whole cost of sinking wells in large numbers. With regard to production I would suggest that if the Government are prepared to pay Rs. 40 per ton as subsidy to ryots in this Kuruvai season, I assure the House that Tanjore district alone will produce more than half the deficit, I mean about 140,000 tons.

“ This Government should try to obtain from the Central Government an increased allotment of mill cloth, failing which,

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export of yarn from the province should be stopped. It is regrettable to note that we have not been getting even the meagre quota of mill-cloth that has been allotted to us. The Government should exert its utmost not only to get the quota of cloth increased but also to obtain in time the quota allotted to us. It must also see that arrears in the quota are sent to the province. If the present state of affairs is allowed to continue, I am afraid the major portion of the population, especially the poor people, will have to go without cloth in the near future. It is therefore necessary that Government should take immediate steps to tackle the twin questions of food and cloth."

* SRI B. BHEEMA RAO :—" Mr. President, Sir, I wish to say a few words with regard to the special conditions prevailing in my district, namely, the district of Bellary. Sir, the district of Bellary has been suffering from chronic famine from the beginning of the 19th century and somehow the disease from which that district has been suffering has not been diagnosed properly and the disease dealt with immediately. That is why for the last so many years, we have been suffering from famine. Those conditions are obtaining throughout the province, throughout the whole of India and throughout the world now. If the conditions in that district had been tackled properly half a century ago, I think the district with which I am connected and the Royalseema districts would have been surplus districts like the coastal districts of Andhradesa. The present Congress Government have got a legacy, a very bad legacy, from the previous Government. The Tungabhadra Project should have been inaugurated in 1902 when the cost was estimated at two crores only and it would have covered a larger area. Now, the cost has gone up to four and a half times and it would cover only half of Bellary and a small portion of the Kurnool district. If only the amount that has been spent for famine relief for over half a century had been spent for this, that would have been sufficient for construction of two or three Tungabhadra Projects as now inaugurated. Government had spent a sum of 3½ crores in Bellary in 1943 alone on famine relief. I may bring one more point to the notice of this House. Sir, the population of the Bellary district was between 9 and 10 lakhs in 1871 and in every census it has been the same. It is only in 1941, it has exceeded 10 lakhs. It is all due to the chronic famine condition prevailing in the district. We are thankful to the Advisers' Government for having pushed through the Tungabhadra Project and begun that project. We only wish that the other projects which have been referred to in the report known as Arogyaswami Mudaliyar's Report were taken up. It was a report prepared by a Committee appointed by the Justice Ministry. If those schemes had been taken up, I think we would have had a large number of acreage under irrigation. But somehow or other those schemes had not been taken up and even during the Advisers' regime, a number of deputations came up here to press for the inauguration of minor projects referred to there. Even now, for the Grow More Food campaign a number of minor projects can be taken up. As Dr. Rajan mentioned day before yesterday, the food

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problem will take not only four or five months but it will be a problem to which our attention has to be devoted for nearly ten years. It is high time that the minor projects referred to in the Arogyaswami Mudaliyar's report which I believe is in the archives of the Secretariat somewhere may be unearthed by the present Ministers and taken up for execution. They will bring more acreage under irrigation and after all, the cost is absolutely insignificant when compared to the huge sums that have been spent on projects like Ramapadasagar and other projects referred to by the Minister for Public Works in the Assembly yesterday. With these preliminary observations, I want to come to the immediate present.

"Sir, my friend Lieut.-Col. K. R. K. Iyengar referred to the sinking of wells, and to seeking the aid of the sappers and miners for the execution thereof. I would earnestly appeal to the present Government to take up the question. I do not think anybody has taken it up earnestly. I believe they are only awaiting a call from some responsible official. Now Sir, though the Ministers have toured frequently, I believe they do not know the conditions in the Bellary district. There are several villages in which there is no well, and others where we have to go a distance of a mile or a mile and a half for water for drinking, leave aside the question of water for bath and washing. Now we have not even drinking water. When there is no water, how can you grow more food? I emphasize this point, Sir, that in the Bellary district, there are a number of villages in which there is no well. There was an ambitious scheme prepared in 1939 by the then Collector who was saying that in the course of five years, they could have a hundred wells in the district. A subsidy of Rs. 30,000 from the Provincial Government and another Rs. 30,000 from the Government of India were received for the sinking of wells. From 1939 onwards, not a well has been sunk, and all the subsidies from the Provincial Government as well as from the Government of India have been surrendered. When I put a question to the Collector, he said: we cannot get anybody to execute, the wages are high and the estimates are low. Nobody comes forward. Rs. 60,000 for six years comes to Rs. 3,60,000, and this amount could have been utilized. If all the sappers and miners come, that amount which has been surrendered can be utilized. I appeal to the Premier to take up these proposals in all earnestness and invite the sappers and miners to come to my district first and begin work.

"If the Ministers can come, I will take them to some of the villages. You will never use the water even for washing your feet, and the poor villager has to drink that water all along the year. Well, that much, Sir, in regard to the sinking of wells.

"Then there is the other proposal with regard to vacant lands. There are a number of vacant lands in the Bellary district. Some of them are dry lands where groundnuts can be grown. There are also a number of vacant, wet lands very near Hospet. A proposal has been made by Lieut.-Col. Iyengar that they must be leased to Government for 10 or 15 years. I am in favour of it. I have got a few acres of wet land. Sugarcane can be grown there. People are eager to grow sugarcane, because the tenant

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gets a net profit of Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 a year. If after two years he is asked to grow paddy—and it is only one crop that is permitted to be grown every year and not two crops—in my district, the tenant skulks away. Last year my wet lands were vacant and I paid the assessment due on those lands at the rate of Rs. 20 per acre without a pie of return. I sought the aid of the Collector, Sub-Collector and the Tahsildar. Nobody came forward to grow paddy there. I made enquiries and several landlords told me that there was half or one-third of the wet lands, on which vegetables or paddy can be grown, lying vacant. I plead for some scheme whereby the Government will immediately take possession of these lands and themselves grow crops thereon giving to the landlords such reasonable return or compensation as the Government might be advised.

“ I do not like to take more of your time because probably there are other speakers. But to one point I want to refer. Mr. Theobald says that the normal business channels might be requisitioned with regard to the distribution of food. Our experience of businessmen in this land has been very sad, Sir. My own experience has shown that to me. I had to perform a marriage in 1943. I went to my usual merchant from whom I purchased 5 bags of rice for Rs. 125. He got 1,000 bags in the morning, and in the evening he said that all the rice bags had been exhausted. Well, Sir, this is how businessmen treat us in these days. In these days, profit is the only criterion. That is the only motive with which the businessman is actuated. I have absolutely no confidence and I think the ordinary man in the street has no confidence in the businessmen in these days. Therefore I think that this rationing through official channels should continue for the present till the situation is relieved. After all, the committees suggested are in accordance with and on the analogy of the famine relief rules. We have already constituted so far back as February 1946 non-official committees in the Bellary district, and we sought the co-operation of the officials. Unfortunately, we could not secure their co-operation. The Collector used to say ‘ we have already constituted different committees for distribution of rice in several villages.’ When we went to the villages, there were no committees. There was absolutely no co-operation between the official and the non-official committee. As this is the state of affairs, I think it is absolutely necessary to have committees of the sort mentioned in the proposals made by the Government, and I think everyone of us, regardless of creed or caste, must co-operate, and that is also the sense of the House judging from the speeches made, though formally some amendments of an all-India political character have been moved which are out of place so far as this province is concerned. I hope, Sir, the proposals will be accepted by the House.”

* Sri L. SUBBARAMA REDDI :—“ అధ్యక్షా, మన ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారు మొదటిలోనే ఈ అహార సమస్య గురించి ఆలోచించడం ముఖ్యమైన సంగతి. గత గవర్నమెంటువారు రైతుల విషయంలో ఉపేక్ష వహించినారని చెప్పక తప్పదు. ధర పెంచించితే మహాసూలుల అమ్మకన్న వారికి నష్టము గనుక ఇప్పటిలో పెంచించమని మన

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సివిలు సప్లై కమిషనరుగారు ప్రకటించారు. మన ప్రధానిగారు కూడా అలాగే అంటు మహాసూలులో ధర పెచ్చింపు విషయము ఆలోచించబడునని చెప్పినారు. కాబట్టి మహాసూలప్పుడు వచ్చే పంటకు ధర పెచ్చు చెయ్యవలసిందని నా ఆభిప్రాయం. నెల్లూరు జిల్లా ధాన్యమునకు తక్కిన జిల్లాల ధాన్యమునకు తేడా ఉంది. 1945 జనవరిలో రైసెన్సుదారులు పుట్టి రూ 150 లు వంతున కొనుగోలు చేసినారు. అప్పుడు 72 సెన్స్ బియ్యం బస్తా క్రియం రూ 19 లు ఉండెను. 1946 వ సంవత్సరంలో పంట తక్కువ. ప్రతి వస్తువుకు ధరలు పెరిగినవి. రైతుకు సేద్యపు ఖర్చులు కూడా ఎక్కువ అయినవి. ఈ పరిస్థితులలో కొత్త బియ్యం అని బస్తాకు ఆ 6 లు తగ్గించడమే కాకుండా double polish కావాలన్నారు. కాబట్టి రైసెన్సుదారులు పుట్టి రూ 142 లు కొనుగోలు చేసినారు. అందువల్ల రైతులకు పుట్టికి రూ 8 లు నష్టమువచ్చింది. వీలైన నెలలో తిరిగి ఆ 6 లు పెచ్చించినందున ధాన్యము నిలువ చేసుకున్నవారికి కొంత లాభం వచ్చింది. మిల్లు యజమానులకు చాలాభాగం లాభించింది. ఇంకో విషయం. మహాసూలులో అమ్మిన దానికి ఆగస్టు సెప్టెంబరులో అమ్మేదానికి తేడాఉంది. పుట్టికి రూ 10 లు నష్టం తరుగు రూపకముగా పోతుంది. న్యాయముగా రైతు నష్టపడకుండా చేసేభాగము ప్రభుత్వమీద ఉంది. న్యాయముగా ధర మార్పు చెయ్యకపోతే నిలువఉంచిన రైతులకు నష్టము కలుగును. బస్తాకు కొంత ధర పెంచితే రైతులకు నష్టములేకుండా వుండడమే కాకుండా ధాన్యము రైతులవద్దనుంచి స్వీకరించుటకు ఎక్కువగా సహాయపడగలదు. పొలాలు బాగాచేసి పంటలు పండించాలంటున్నారు. గాని ఈ ధరలలో అది సాధ్యపడదు. రైతులకు ఉత్పాదకము లేనపుడు విమి లాభము. రైతులు కొత్త భూములు సాగుచేస్తే ఎకరానికి 50 రూ॥ మొదలు 100 రూ॥ వరకు bonus ఇస్తేగాని రైతులకు ఉత్పాదకము ఉండదని నామనవి. రైతు ఈయండ్లపు ధరల వల్ల ఉన్న ఋణములు మాత్రము తీర్చుకున్నాడు. గ్రామములు విమరత బాగు పడలేదు. ఇప్పుడు ఉన్న ప్రభుత్వం రైతులకు సహాయం చెయ్యవలసిన కోరుచున్నాను. ఎరువులు supply బాగా చేస్తేగాని పంటల అభివృద్ధి కాజాలదు. రైతులకు ముఖ్యముగా వేరు సెనగ పిండి supply విషయములో 10 ఎకరములలోపువారికి $\frac{1}{2}$ ధరకు, అంతకు పెబడిన వారికి $\frac{3}{4}$ ధరలకు ఆముదము, వేరు సెనగపిండి ఎముకలపాడి సహాయములో ఇవ్వవలసిన కోరుచున్నాను.

“వస్త్రములవిషయములో చేసేత వస్త్రములలో రంగు వస్త్రములకు కూడా control పెట్టవలయును. మల్లులకు రంగులు వేసి వీరలు చాలా పెచ్చురలకు అప్పు చున్నారు. రంగువీరలు వీడవారికి మధ్యతరగతివారికి చాలా అవసరము. వస్త్రములు ఇనుప సామానులకు పడే బాధలు వారికే తెలుసును. రైతులకు వ్యవసాయపు సామానులు దొరకుట కష్టముగా నున్నది. కజ్జు వగైరాలు పట్టణాలలో ఇల్లు కట్టుకోవడానికి ఇనుము దొరుకుచున్నదేగాని పల్లెలలో దొరకుటలేదు. కాబట్టి వాటిని స్వీకరముగా సరై చేయించవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను.

“కొంతమంది సభ్యులు ఈ కమిటీలు స్వీకరముగా పనిచెయ్యవు అంటున్నారు. ఉభయ శాసన సభలసభ్యులు కలసి శ్రద్ధగా పనిచేస్తే ఈ కమిటీలు బాగా పనిచేయగలవు. ఉద్యోగస్తులు కూడా సరిగా సహకారం చేస్తే కమిటీలు జయప్రదముగ పనిచెయ్యగలవు అని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను.

SRI P. RAMAKRISHNA NAYUDU :—“Mr. President, Sir, from the statement on the food position by the Hon. the Premier, I come to understand that our province has always been a deficit one with regard to rice and millets. It is really very surprising to note that our country being an agricultural one is to depend upon

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outsiders. It is therefore quite essential to make ourselves self-sufficient. In order to make our province self-sufficient without expecting anything from outside, it is necessary that the main resources of the province should be improved to a great extent. Fresh irrigation projects are to be investigated and the existing systems should be repaired so as to help the ryot to grow more food. Our district of Coimbatore is mostly a dry district. There are very few irrigation facilities. One or two projects such as Upper and Lower Bhavani which were contemplated during the last Ministry have not been begun. It is therefore suggested that these projects are taken up as early as possible. Construction of big tanks will be helpful by way of direct irrigation and by way of feeding wells through percolation. The Government have done well in granting subsidies for the sinking and repair of wells. But the sums of Rs. 320 and Rs. 160 are quite insufficient in our parts where the depth of the wells ranges from 80 to 90 feet. So I request the Government to increase the subsidy. Having sunk a well, the ryot finds it very hard to make use of the water. In order to bale out water he has to buy a pair of bulls which at present costs him about a thousand rupees. To use any other modern method is more difficult for him as oil engines and oil are not available. Electric power may also be utilized; but the same is not available easily. There are many thousands of applications for power to wells which have not been attended to for years. The reason attributed by the departmental authorities is that they are short of materials. I suggest that the Government should take steps to import them early. I understand that many oil engines and electrical pumping sets and pipes are now lying idle with the Military department. I request the Government to release all of them for the use of the ryots. I also understand that the Government are calculating 12½ per cent interest as income on the cost of construction of electric lines. I think this is too high a rate when the Government could get money for 3 per cent and below from outside. At least for agricultural purposes this high rate of interest need not be calculated upon.

“ I would like to suggest also, Sir, that first preference be given to ryots and not to amusement concerns such as cinemas and shows. I have to mention this fact because, when thousands of applications from ryots are not cared for, fresh connexions were given to such concerns in our own district. No doubt they are also to be attended to, but not at this juncture, when we are struggling between life and death. In addition to these facilities, Sir, I request the Government to help the ryot to get irrigation pumping sets, switches, starts and wires at controlled rates.

“ Sir, the next item I would draw your attention to is the grant of Rs. 15 as subsidy per acre. Considering the heavy expenditure which the ryot has to incur with regard to cultivation of the food crop and the price he gets for the same, this subsidy is quite insufficient. If a ryot raises a food crop he will get about Rs. 150 per acre. From this amount he has to pay the heavy labour charges,

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that is, four to five times of pre-war days. During pre-war days when paddy, cholam and ragi were selling at Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 per 60 Madras measures, the labourer was paid at 4 annas per day or 2 Madras measures. Whereas now when they are selling at Rs. 6, he demands one rupee or Re. 1-4-0 and refuses to take in kind. Regarding other articles such as iron implements, tyres and carts, hides for baling buckets, cost of bullocks, cost of fodder and cost of cotton seeds are more than four times what they were before, apart from his domestic requirements such as clothes, sovereigns, etc., which are five times. But his income by way of the present increased price from his produce is only double of what it was before. How can you then expect him to make both ends meet even with the subsidy of Rs. 15 per acre? Yesterday, one of the hon. Members pointed out that there should be restriction on the cultivation of cotton in the districts of Coimbatore and Salem. The only money crop which the ryot is growing in that area is cotton which to some extent helps him to eke out a living and if restriction is made on this also, he can as well keep quiet instead of cultivating and getting into debt. I therefore suggest, 'Sir, that if we want the ryot to grow more food and make our province self-sufficient, we should give him all the above-mentioned facilities and also a good subsidy not on an acre, but on the amount of grain produced by him. The subsidy should be such as to tempt him to undertake the cultivation of only food crops, or the other alternative should be to supply him all requirements at double the pre-war rates. Unless this is done, we cannot expect the ryot to raise any more food crop.

" Sir, one of our Members, the hon. Dr. Rajan, said the other day that he cultivated onions and supplied them to the military in as quick a time as possible. I am confident he did not do it for the sake of supplying to the military. He did so because he got a very good price for the same and was able to get a net profit of Rs. 600 on an acre within a period of 1½ months. If such fine prices are offered for the food-stuffs given by the ryots, I am sure that no other inducement is necessary for him to grow more.

" Sir, these are my few suggestions with regard to growing more food. But I wish to say a few words regarding procurement and distribution. Procurements are made by the agents concerned months after the crop has been harvested. The ryot is not allowed to take the grains from the fields to his godowns. He has to keep them there itself until the agents come and procure. This is a great hindrance to the ryot. The procurement notice should be delivered to him as soon as the crop is ready for harvest and the grains are to be procured soon after the harvest is over. Such agency to procure and distribute should be given to the local co-operative societies or co-operative stores from whom we can expect fair treatment to all. Those bodies are governed and checked by the Co-operative department, the Revenue department and the Local Central Banks and as such there is little scope for them to black market."

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* MR. K. O. ANTONY :—“ Sir, yesterday we tried to impose a rule on ourselves by which we will restrict our speeches to 10 minutes. To-day, Sir, you have fixed a 15-minute limit. We have been honouring it in the breach, and you have been following faithfully in the footsteps of our esteemed President. But, let me try and see if I can honour this rule in its observance.

“ Let me congratulate the Hon. the Premier for focussing public attention on this food problem in the manner in which he has done it. We have been discussing this question in both the Houses at great length. I think it is all to the good. While generally giving support to the plan adumbrated by the Hon. the Premier, I must remark that it is a matter of regret to me that the plan he has adumbrated looks very much like a bureaucratic plan. I do not see anything very much of a refreshing character in it, anything revolutionary in outlook. We have been told time and again that it was because there was a bureaucratic Government in power, the food problem and the cloth problem could not be solved. We have also been told that immediately a popular Government came into power, this problem would solve itself.* I wish that the Hon. the Premier had been endowed by a kindly Providence with the power to feed 5,000 men with five loaves of barley and two fishes as was done 2,000 years ago in Galilee. But unfortunately he is not. Yet, I personally hoped to see a fresh outlook in the scheme of the Government. I could not see in the plan that has been placed before us any feature different from what the Advisers' Government would have had. To that extent it is disappointing. May I draw the attention of the Hon. the Prime Minister to the fact that officialdom is proverbially hide-bound? It is wooden. It requires a man of vision and courage to take away all the red-tape from it. If there is one matter in which all sides of the House would welcome a revolutionary outlook on the part of the Government, it is on this question of solving the food problem. I would very much appeal to the Hon. the Premier to see that the machinery is humanized. By saying that it should be humanized, what I mean is that it should not always be guided by rules and regulations. Much has been made of some help promised to be given to the ryots and to the poor consumers. I have, however, certain facts to lay before the House concerning the rationing system in the City of Madras. I have got great respect for some of the higher officers who have thrown their heart and soul into the scheme, but when we come lower down the ladder, we find that the system of rationing is heartless and wooden. There are many workers who have complained about the system. They could not even see the ration officers for any complaint that they have to make. Again, let me ask those concerned whether these schemes are worked for the benefit of the common man? Let me ask the Hon. the Premier and every one else in this House to examine their conscience a bit. How many marriages have been celebrated in the Madras City in the past year or two—I am afraid there has not been much time after coming out of jail for the Hon. Ministers to attend to any of them—in which hundreds

[Mr. K. O. Antony]

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of people have been fed? Do we not know the meaning of the note at the bottom of the invitation cards which reads 'Bring your ration with you'? Is it not a huge joke? How many people have been prosecuted for violating the rules regarding feeding on marriage and other occasions? I know cases where poor workers have been prosecuted because a member left and it was not notified to the ration officer. Well, this is what I mean by saying 'Let us humanize the machinery.' Let us work it for the benefit of the common man and let us not think that it is only we who matter in this world. To-day the Hon. the Premier has brought in a scheme and I appreciate the humanizing factor in it in so far as he is creating certain committees. These committees will, I think, supply the human element necessary to correct the vagaries of officials. I would ask the Hon. the Prime Minister to take note of the criticisms that have been levelled to the effect that these committees might not function successfully and that their working might result in dilatoriness and want of expedition in the carrying out of business. There is something in those criticisms. But I welcome the proposal of the Hon. the Premier in so far as the human element is provided and in so far as the working of the scheme is not going to be left to the sweet will and pleasure of the petty officials of Government who boss over the common man.

"Another point I should like to touch upon is the reduction that the Hon. the Premier has envisaged in the rice ration of the people. I protest against it most emphatically from the point of view of the workers in this country. The workers, if you want them to work well, must be fed well. It has been said that the minimum required for an ordinary man is 2,700 calories, but for a worker it must be more. Fortunately for us a large number of workers have been classed as hard manual labourers and they could get their extra ration. I wish very much that it be continued; otherwise it will add to cloth shortage and every other shortage in the country. If the workers are not fed well, their output will be less.

5-30
p.m.

"Then with regard to the cloth shortage, I have great admiration for our Provincial Textile Controller. I understand that he is a terror to the anti-social elements in textile business. But I notice, Sir, that there is one anti-social element which is evading his clutches and that is the man who is waiting in the queue and taking away the cloth whenever it is made available to the public and selling it outside. I cannot appreciate the scheme that has been brought forward with its meagre allowances of ration. So, if Mr. Venkateswaran will devise some scheme by which we may get rid of this particular kind of anti-social element and if there is a more equitable method of cloth distribution, all his trouble in that direction will be worth while. With regard to the amendment that is before the House, I am entirely opposed to it."

* SRI D. MANJAYYA HEGDE :—"Mr. President, Sir, I appreciate very much the attitude of the present Government. Of

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all the questions, the question of food is the most important one and it is the first duty of the Government to tackle this vital question. The success or failure of the present Government depends on how they tackle this important question.

" I now come to the question of the committees proposed to be constituted by the Government. The village committees consist entirely of non-officials. We know, Sir, of the work turned out by some of the village institutions like the village panchayats, whose composition is entirely non-official. The members of the committees may be influential, but very often, being uneducated, are indifferent and ignorant. I therefore suggest, Sir, that village officers like the karnam should be co-opted to these village committees.

" With regard to Taluk Committees at least it is stated that the Tahsildar should convene the meetings. But it is not stated as to who should convene the meeting of the village committees. If the work is entrusted to the non-official chairman, I am afraid the business will not be transacted properly.

" I now come to the District Committees. These committees are empowered to co-opt not more than three members. We have not been told as to whether they should be officials or non-officials. I think they must all be non-officials, because the committee must have a preponderance of the non-official element.

" The committees are entrusted with the work of purchasing paddy or rice. It is not stated clearly wherefrom they will get the money for it. In addition to the committees, there are also agents for a group of villages who are authorized to purchase paddy or rice. I think two sets of purchasers of rice from the villagers are unnecessary.

" The Collector is given the power to override the decisions of the committees. I think, Sir, if we want to work on democratic lines, the Collector should be asked to accept the majority decision of the committee. With these few suggestions, I support the proposals.

" In connexion with the Grow More Food campaign, the Government should pay particular attention to the irrigation projects. The present system of giving subsidies for sinking wells is unsatisfactory. The Government should come forward and sink wells at their own cost. They should also open demonstration farms in different parts of the taluk so as to educate the ryots in modern methods of scientific agriculture. This will be much more effective than the present method of village propaganda which I think is a waste of money.

" The distribution of yarn also must be made on a population basis. This should be left to the village committees under the supervision of the District Committees.

" As regards my own district, it is well known that it is a deficit district. But the Government took 10,000 tons of paddy from that district to some other district, and as a consequence we had to starve

[Sri D. Manjayya Hegde] [30th May 1946]

for three months. I request that Government should return that quantity of paddy taken as a loan. With these words, Sir, I once more support the proposals of the Hon. the Premier."

* SRI S. A. S. RM. RAMANATHAN CHETTIYAR :—"தலைவரவர்களே, இப்பொழுது Food Problem, Cloth Problem என்று இரண்டு வந்திருக்கின்றன. ஆனால் சாப்பாடு விஷயமாக எல்லோரும் பேசிவிட்டார்கள். இந்த cloth விஷயமாக இதுகாறும் பேசினதாகக் காணவில்லை. மாணம் பெரிதா அல்லது பிராணன் பெரிதா இன்றைய சாப்பாட்டு விஷயம் இருக்கிறது, இதைவிடத் துணி குறைச்சலாய்த்தான் இருக்கிறதென்பதை எல்லோரும் உணர்ந்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த டெக்ஸ்டைல் டிபார்ட்மெண்டின் ஒரு உத்தரவானது எந்த அளவில் இருக்கிறது. அதை அனுப்ப சாத்யமாகப் பார்க்கும்போது அதிலே பசை இல்லை. உலர்ந்தும் இருக்கிறது. இதை வைத்துக்கொண்டு ஜனங்களுக்கு எப்படிச் சொல்லுகிறதென்று கொஞ்சங்கூட பொறுத்தமில்லாதிருக்கிறது. எல்லோருக்கும் துணி கிடைக்க வழி செய்யலாம். முதலாவது இங்கிருக்கிற நூலை எதற்காக வெளி மாகாணத்திற்கு அனுப்புவது. இந்த நூலை அனுப்பாமல் இருக்க ராஜாங்கத்திற்கு அதிகாரம் இருக்கிறது இல்லையாவென்பது சந்தேகமாயிருக்கிறது. அப்படி அதிகாரமிருந்தாலும் அதை வெளியூருக்கு அனுப்பக்கூடாதென்று கவர்ன்மென்ட் பார் உத்தரவு போடவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இரண்டாவது, இங்கிருந்து இங்கி, துணி எல்லாம் கல்கத்தா கொளும்புக்குப்போய்க் கொண்டிருந்தது. இங்கு துணியில்லாத பஞ்சம் வந்து 1 கஜம் 1 கஜம் தந்த காலத்தில் எதற்காக கல்கத்தாவுக்கும் கொளும்புக்கும் அனுப்பவேண்டுமென்று கேட்கின்றேன். உடனே வெளியிடத்திற்கு ஒரு கஜம் கூட அனுப்பக்கூடாதென்று தலைவரவர்கள் உத்தரவுபோடுமாறு கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகின்றேன். துணி வெளியிடத்திற்குப் போகாமலும் நூல் வெளி இடத்திற்குப் போகாமலும் இருந்தால் சென்னை மாகாணத்தில் பஞ்சமே இல்லையென்று சொல்லப்படுகிற முறையில் நடத்தலாம். மங்கம்மா மார்க் கெட்டை ஒழிப்பதென்று பேசுகிறார்கள். என்ன செய்யவேண்டுமென்றால் இந்த மில்களை சர்க்காரே எடுத்து நடத்தவேண்டும். மில்லிலிருந்து துணி அனுப்ப புரோக்கர் எதற்கு, நேரே மில்லிலிருந்து இருக்கப்பட்ட துணிகளை அப்படியே எடுத்து யார் யாருக்கு அனுப்பவேண்டுமோ அனுப்பி விடுகிறது தானே. 1941-42-லே யார் யார் வியாபாரம் செய்தார்களோ அவர்கள்தான் சாப்பிடவேண்டுமாம். எனக்கு இரண்டு லைசென்ஸ் இருக்கிறது. ஒரு ஆசாமிக்கு ஒரு Wholesale Licence, Retail Licence இரண்டும் இருக்கக்கூடாது. Retail லைசென்ஸ்க்காரனுக்கு ஒரு துணிகூட கிடையாது. Wholesale, Retail இரண்டு லைசென்ஸும் ஒரு ஆளுக்கு இருக்கவேகூடாது, Retail காரனுக்கு அப்பொழுது ஸ்பீனே கிடைக்கும். ஜனங்களுக்குக் கொடுப்பார்கள். இப்பொழுது பஞ்ச மென்று சொல்லுகிறதெல்லாம் ஏழைகளுக்குப் பஞ்சமே யொழிய பணக்காரர்களுக்கும் 200 ரூபாய்க்குமேல் சம்பளம் வாங்குகிறவர்களுக்கும் இல்லை யென்று சொல்லுவேன். ஒவ்வொருவரும் 8 ஜோடி 10 ஜோடி வாங்கிவைத்துக்கொள்ளுகிறது வேஷ்டியை. 1941-42-லே வியாபாரம் பண்ணினவர்களுக்குத்தான் துணி கொடுக்கிறது நூல் கொடுக்கிறது என்று சொன்னால் முடியாது. இந்த மாதிரி வியாபாரம் பண்ணி Basic period-லே கொள்ளை யடித்தது போதாதா. Basic period ஒழியவேண்டும், Wholesale Retail licence இரண்டும் ஒருவருக்குக் கொடுக்கக்கூடாது. இந்தக் காரியங்களை அவசரமாகச் செய்யவேண்டும், பல மில்லையும் கவர்ன்மென்ட் நடத்தவேண்டும், அதிலே Share-holder இருக்கிறார்கள் 100 ரூபாய் ஷேர், ஆயிரம் ரூபாய் இருக்கிறது. அதைப்பற்றிக் கவலையில்லை. Basic period இருப்பதை உடனே Cancel செய்யவேண்டும். ஒரு வியாபாரிக்கு Wholesale, Retail licence இரண்டும் இருக்கக்கூடாது. ஒரு licence தான் இருக்கவேண்டும். இப்பொழுதுள்ள ஸமாச்சாரத்தில் மனைவியின் பேரில் licence இருக்கிறது. அப்படி யிருந்தால் டெக்ஸ்டைல் கமிஷனரேப்போய்க் காண்பது போதும், இங்கு அதிகத் துணி தயாராகிறது. அது எப்படிப்போய் விடுகிறது. மில்லிலிருந்து புரோக்கர் வைத்து நூல் வாங்கக்கூடாது. ஸர்க்காரே மொத்த Wholesale licence காரனுயிருந்து கணக்கெடுத்து அனுப்பவேண்டும். இனிமேல் லைசென்ஸ் கொடுக்கக்கூடாது.

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மங்கம்மாவை ஒழிக்கவேண்டுமானால் அது **Textile Department** மூலமாக ஒழியாது. ஆட்வைசரி கமிட்டி திட்டத்தை ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். அந்தக் கமிட்டிக்கு **concerned** ஆபீஸர் கட்டுப்பட்டு நடக்கவேண்டும். நூலை வெளியூருக்கு அனுப்பக்கூடாது. **Cloth**-களும் அனுப்பக்கூடாது. **Food problem** விஷயமாக **Lower Subordinate concerned** அதிகாரிகளை உடனே மாற்ற வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார்கள். கூடுமானவரையில் மாற்றிக்கொண்டிருந்தால் நன்றியிருக்கும், மாற்றவேண்டியது அவசியம்.”

* **ABDUL LATEEF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR** :—
“ Mr. President, I am grateful that at least at the fag end of this session, I have been permitted to speak. That has been my lot in other places also. In any case, I shall be content to make a few remarks while supporting the amendment that has been moved and placed before this House by my party, namely, the Muslim League party. I must, Sir, at the outset, congratulate my Hon. and old Friend, the Hon. the Premier and his worthy lieutenants for having lost no time in trying to tackle this very vital and most important problem of food and cloth. We on this side of the House are prepared to offer our hearty co-operation in all the measures that the Government want to adopt provided, Sir, we feel that they also appreciate the genuine co-operation that is offered from our side.

“ India is a country, Sir, where it must be a wonder to think of a famine with regard to food and cloth. Hon. Members on both sides of the House will agree that this is not God's act. It is an artificial famine brought about in this country by a foreign Government, which has been callous to the needs of the people of this country. If India had been an independent country, all these difficulties would have vanished in a moment. I remember, Sir, that after the termination of the Great War of 1914, France, which was completely devastated, was rejuvenated in a short time. Talking of the present, in Russia, a country that was directly affected by war, we find that there is abolition of control of food. But in India which was not directly affected by the war, we have all these controls. Anyway, it is gratifying to note that a popular Government has taken the place of the regime of Advisers in this province and viewing from past records of the great leader of the Andhras, the Hon. the Premier, the great and noble sacrifices which he has made for this country, I am absolutely certain that he will spare no pains for doing all that lies in his power to help the poor people of this country, particularly of this province. We fully appreciate, Sir, the great work that the Hon. the Premier has done so soon after he has taken up office and the work that he has been doing before he took up office; we feel that he requires good rest. He is burdened with too many portfolios. Therefore the Muslim League party has suggested that there should be a Board, consisting of non-official Members of this and the other House in order to tackle this problem successfully.

“ Sir, it is said that the wholesale merchants are responsible for black-marketing. I cannot see eye to eye with those people who feel that it is the merchants who are responsible for this. There may be some merchants like that, but we cannot condemn them as a class.

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" Then coming to the draft proposals of the Hon. Premier, we see that he suggests that there should be a disruption of the system that is now in existence. Taking into consideration the very acute famine with which we are threatened, the famine of cloth and the famine of food, I feel Sir, that it is not advisable that we should make innovations and new experiments and try to find out after experience that they are not good. Therefore, the present system, I feel, has to be retained. No doubt there may be defects in it; and in order to remove those defects, the Muslim League party has suggested that the Board should be constituted. There is a Persian proverb—

تانیق از عراق آورده شود مارگزیده مرده شود Taqria

The translation of the proverb is that by the time the antidote comes from Mesopotamia the snake-bitten man will die. By the time your committees begin to function, we do not know what will happen in this country. We are given to understand that the situation is so dangerous and so threatening that unless immediate steps are taken, we cannot tide over the present crisis of famine. Therefore, Sir, I say that no new experiments should be tried.

" We come to black-markets; there has been black-marketing; people might have been responsible for it. But let us not forget that this Ministry has to take very drastic steps with regard to the officials as well. I think I have read the article written by Gandhiji 'death dance.' Officials have been entertained; there have been dancing and singing parties; subscriptions have been raised and presents received at the cost of suffering humanity which is now faced with the threat of death. They are not proper; but there has been this practice; we cannot forget it; we cannot overlook it; we cannot ignore it. It is there; this is the inducement to the merchant who spends so much on such things, apart from the money he has to pay as the cost of the articles he purchases; he spends so much extra; he has naturally to get extra money from some place; in order to get that money in addition to his profit that he should naturally get, it is necessary for him to enter the black-market. All nepotism should be checked; favouritism should be stopped. There must be a thorough overhauling of the machinery of the Government. Unless that is done, there is no use blaming the merchants.

" So far as the food question is concerned, what is it that the merchant can do? From the beginning to the end there are checks. From the place where he purchases to the point where he sends, the wholesale merchant is not able to do anything; therefore there can be no black-markets in his case; no prosecutions have been launched. Where are prosecutions? Are you able to quote the number of prosecutions of wholesale merchants? If this is not the case, the natural conclusion is there is no black-marketing so far as wholesale merchants are concerned. There might have been black-marketing among retailers. I am subject to correction. I do not know of any concrete instances. •

" My hon. Friend, Mr. Theobald, spoke yesterday; though he did not say so in so many words, I take it that he supported the

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spirit underlying the amendment moved by the Muslim League Party. That is what I understand. We should have a special non-official organization. I am now quoting an instance known to me personally. How will you be able to improve agriculture and increase production and do the needful when the Government servants at the top of the department—perhaps due to the fact that there was no legislature at that time, due to the fact that the Ministry was not likely to take them to task and because it was Advisers' regime—were doing things in their own way irrespective of how it affected the people? I applied for iron tyres. I came to know that the Government were supplying these tyres for industrial and agricultural purposes. My hon. Friend, the Premier, may perhaps be surprised to know that I have now become an industrialist as well as an agriculturist from a journalist. I came to know that the Tahsildar's permit had to be obtained first of all. With great difficulty I got the permit of the Tahsildar. He gave a certificate that I required four iron tyres for my carts. With this certificate I applied to the Agricultural Demonstrator. It is dated 5th August 1945. I do not want to read my application. But the remarks on the application are: 'You should submit the application in the proper form.' Now it is necessary for me to read my application.

'To the Tahsildar of Saidapet, and to the Agricultural Demonstrator, Saidapet.

'The Tahsildar has been kind enough to sanction the purchase of two pairs of iron tyres. (I gave the description of the size of the tyres required). We have been trying for some months past to get these tyres; but we have been disappointed. Your office staff have been informing our men that no stock was available. We found in a Government announcement recently published that iron tyres can be got by people residing in the area that comes under your jurisdiction. We therefore request that you may be kind enough to supply us two pairs of iron tyres for our two bullock carts, without which our carts are lying idle and our work suffers very seriously. We hope and trust that you will be pleased to grant our request.

'Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely.'

In answer to that application, we were informed: 'Returned; you have to submit the application in the proper form.' I do not know what the proper form is. They did not send me any form. If there was a form to be filled up, they could have sent me one. I do not know why my application should not be treated as such. Although the Tahsildar gave a certificate, I was told that the application was not in the proper form. Perhaps the Agricultural Demonstrator wanted that the Tahsildar also should sign on my application. The endorsement also stated 'Your application will be registered and you will be intimated soon after the arrival of the consignment; you will be supplied in the order of priority.' It is in this connection that I quoted an Urdu saying: Till the time when these things

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come, how is the man to live? How is the agriculturist to do his work? How is the industrialist to carry on his business? Is this the way in which Government officials should deal with such applications?

" I am glad that the Congress Ministry is in the seat of power. I could not put this question to your predecessor, the Government of the Advisers, because they were unapproachable. I want this Ministry to take note of these things, how matters have to be expedited and how things have to be done as quickly as possible, by giving up the system of red-tapism. That is why I say there must be human touch on the part of those who attend to these matters. A popular Ministry has come to power; now is the time to show that they can sympathize with the people, feel with the people, work for the people and help them to the extent it is possible for them (the Ministry) to help.

" The amendment of the Muslim League is supported throughout the whole country. I shall read an extract from this morning's *Hindu*.

'S.I. Chamber's Views on Food position.'

'Members of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce at a meeting held at the Chamber buildings yesterday (at the time this matter was discussed, the Chamber did not know what the amendment was that was moved by the Leader of the Opposition here) discussed the food and cloth position in the province. Mr. P. Natesan, M.L.A., was present.

'The consensus of opinion among the members was that wholesale merchants should continue to take the place which they are now occupying and that in the absence of any specific complaints against them, the substitution of co-operative societies for them was a step which was not warranted. The organization of village, taluk and district committees, they opined, would not be of much use in the procurement and distribution of foodgrains. They pleaded that an increase in the price of paddy would give the necessary incentive for the growth of more rice. In regard to the cloth position, they felt that the increased supply of yarn to handloom weavers would bring down the price of handloom cloth and that a better system of cloth distribution would improve the situation to a large extent. They pointed out that the existing distribution scheme was defective'.

" This is what the Muslim League amendment seeks to suggest. With regard to more production, I beg to submit that the Hon. Premier can take note of the following suggestion. There should be a bonus system. I am a tanner. There was a time when it was difficult for the Government to get hides. Black-marketeers went to tanners, purchased hides and at dead of night hides were taken away to places we did not know. The Government could not get hides. Therefore the Government thought there must be some incentive to the tanners to sell their goods to the Government and they decided to give a bonus of 2 annas per pound for 1,500 bales; for 2,000 bales annas four; for 2,500 bales and above 5½ annas a pound; for 3,000 bales and above 7 annas per pound. What was the result? Merchants dealing in skins and hides, particularly hides, sold their hides to the Government of India. Hides are being purchased in large quantities and large bonuses are given to the merchants. In this manner the Government can declare a bonus to agriculturists. I am not an agriculturist; yet I must sympathize with the agriculturist; I must bear in mind his difficulties; I must realize that he is not paid properly. There will

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then be no question of the agriculturist consuming all his produce. He will not consume all his produce, when he is able to get a good price for his produce. The Ministry should consider this suggestion carefully.

“ Then, Sir, so much has been said about wells and about irrigation. I do not want to repeat all those arguments now. But I would suggest one thing. On account of the last war and on account of the presence of a number of military people here, our cattle wealth has been very much depleted. Now, there are no oxen to plough the soil. Therefore the Government should secure tractors and supply them to the agriculturists. Manure should be supplied freely, tractors should be supplied freely, wells must be dug and channels should be repaired—these are the four things to be attended to. This is a national Government; and what is the use of your being called a national Government if you are not going to help the people? If this Government is going to copy the bureaucratic Government that preceded it, I do not think there is any use in our people taking up office, coming here day after day and wasting our time; unless we can be of real help to our people, I feel, Sir, there can be no justification for any party to come into power and for any party to be even in the Opposition. Therefore, Sir, this question of increment in production, efficiency in procurement and distribution—all these questions should be managed very carefully and very tactfully and very sympathetically too. As I have said, Sir, I . . . (At this stage the Chairman sounded the gong.) I know, Sir, I am speaking at the fag-end of the day—I must obey your instructions and there may be others who want to speak. But I have not dealt with one other important aspect of the discussion. I have been going on not into details but into generalities with regard to food. I am now coming to cloth.

“ I do not want however to take up much of the time of the House. Sir, a scheme has been placed before us, a report is there. I want to know from the Hon. the Minister or from whosoever is responsible for the production and distribution of cloth, if you are going to give one sari to ten families, who is to wear that sari (laughter). It practically means that you are giving nothing and if you are giving nothing, Sir, what is the use of this cumbersome system, this large machinery, this white elephant of a Government? The existence of a Government may be done away with, no Government is needed if we are to live in the days of Adam and Eve, if we are to go naked, if we are to live—perhaps even that is impossible now—on the leaves of trees. In these circumstances, why should there be a Government at all, I cannot understand. I am certain that the Hon. the Premier must be devising means to relieve the poor, to relieve the needy, of the great distress that is facing them. The requirements have been stated. It has been pointed out that there is no cloth. I am not a pessimist myself, Sir. If responsible, sympathetic people like the Hon. the Premier are there, I am quite certain they will not make the people die merely by saying there is no food. The very mention of death by starvation will make them die. If a doctor goes to a patient and

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says : ' No, you are not going to be cured,' the patient will collapse immediately. Let it not be said like that. Let us tell the country ' here is a Government that is out to do anything, that is out to help the people.' I am certain, Sir, that you will then be long remembered by the public, not only by the people who are now living, but by people who are to come hereafter, who are still unborn. A great leader like the Premier will certainly discharge his duties in the manner in which a leader ought to be able to discharge them. That is the hope of the Muslim League; and it is in this hope, Sir, that the Muslim League has moved this amendment. I ask, what is the remedy you have given in this textile report? You have simply said there is no cloth. Shall I

say something? ' Alhakoo Murrum' الْحَقُّ مَرٌّ is an Arabic proverb meaning ' truth is unpalatable.' Where is all this mill cloth going, I ask. That question the Minister must ask his subordinates—where is all the mill cloth going? Let us go into the houses of some of these officials, find out who is wearing the mill cloth, how these come to them when poor people are going naked; put these questions to them and they will be baffled and there will be no reply. Sir, they are living at the cost of the poor people—I do not say all, at least some of them are living at the cost of the poor. The Advisers' regime entrusted power to people who are unworthy of wielding that power, and it is up to you, the Ministers, to snatch away that power from all these people and see that the poor people are really benefited. If there is going to be a shortage of mill cloth, what is the remedy? You have to subsidize. Although you are only a Provincial Government, you must subsidize; you cannot inflate I know; there was inflation going on during the war. Money was then forthcoming like water; an article worth about an anna was being purchased at a rupee; even now there are people in respect of whom, if you simply ransack their accounts, their banking accounts, you will find there is nothing which can be said to be satisfactory; you will find only nauseating reports. Well, Sir, it is simply heart-rending.

" Fortunately or unfortunately, Sir, we have come into power and we have to espouse the cause of the poor; and by doing so, I am sure we are likely to incur the displeasure of some of the high-placed officials. Therefore I said ' Truth is unpalatable ' but truth has to be said when it is to the interests of millions of people who are likely to die by starvation, who are likely to go unclothed, naked. When that is the case, it is necessary for the representatives of the people to mention what the facts are, to tell you who are the guardians, who are the custodians of the people, who are like the heads of the families of all our people that are going to starve or live without clothes? Therefore, Sir, I submit that if handloom cloth cannot be produced at lower prices, it is the duty of the Government to subsidize and bring the prices to as low a level as possible, so that cloth may be brought within the easy reach of all the poor people. (At this stage, the Chairman sounded the gong again.) I shall finish, Sir.

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'In this report, no constructive proposals have been made. We have simply been frightened; we have been told there is no cloth. What is the remedy that you have proposed here? You simply say that Government are going to do this and that. This is what is stated :

'There have been widespread complaints that mill cloth is not reaching the poorer classes of consumers. The Government have accordingly under their active consideration a scheme for the equitable distribution of the available supplies of mill cloth to all areas and sections of the consuming public.'

Why do you not take this House into confidence? You are going to work out a scheme; is it not the right of this House, is it not the right of the Members of this House, to ask you, the Ministers, what is it you are going to do, so that we may also suggest something? You have not said that. We are going to meet, Sir, only after two months and by that time, what is your scheme going to be like? Whatever may be the amount of criticism to which you may be subjected, you want this House to criticize you; and yet you are not going to take this House into your confidence. I submit, Sir, your scheme should be forthcoming before this House is adjourned; and then it will be possible for Members of this House to offer destructive as well as constructive criticism. Leave aside the destructive criticisms; leave out what is bad, and take what is good. There is an Arabic proverb. خذ مَا صَافًا وَدَعْ مَا يَدِرُ

which means take that which is good and reject that which is bad. If you are not able to take what is good, where is the necessity for the representatives of the people in this House to come and sit here? (The Chairman again sounded the gong at this stage.) I am not going to take up more time, Sir. I shall make only one more remark and finish.

'Sir, this offer of co-operation, this hand of friendship that is offered to the Ministerial benches, more particularly I say to the Premier, from the Muslim League side, is, I suppose he will admit, a good augury. Many things which you and I know and perhaps which you and I may not know, are going to take place in this province. This warning I have to give you. In the interests of the people at large, in the interests of the Muslims and Hindus and of all communities residing in this province, it is necessary that there should be co-operation, there should be real good-will between all communities. Therefore, Sir, we are in that spirit offering this co-operation; and I want the Hon. the Minister to receive that co-operation, to respond to that co-operation in the same spirit in which it has been offered. I want that the Hon. the Premier should not neglect the Opposition as he has done in the case of the formation of the Ministry. We are not enamoured of Ministerships; we do not want a Minister's post; but, Sir, we do not want you to do your job without our consent. (At this stage, the Chairman again sounded the gong.) I am finishing, Sir, with one more sentence. I do not want the Ministers to do in this respect what they have done in the selection of the personnel, with regard to election to prize posts; I do not want them to neglect the Opposition in this case also. Let what is past be past. In this

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case, when our co-operation is offered, when our hand of friendship is offered, take it in the same spirit in which it is offered; and I am sure you will be able to succeed and you can successfully work and help the people. Therefore, Sir, if this amendment of the Muslim League party is rejected, I take it that it is a token of your non-co-operation with us. You were all non-co-operators; when you were in the Opposition, you did not co-operate with the Government; but I want that you should not non-co-operate with the Opposition, now that you are yourself the Government. I thank, you, Sir, for the indulgence shown to me."

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*KHAN BAHADUR SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—

"Mr. President, Sir, the subject before the House is being or has been well thrashed out. All the same, I believe, this can bear any amount of further discussion as no subject is of greater moment or of wider import than the subject of food. Food is a paramount subject to the people. There are no two opinions, Sir, about the supreme significance of agriculture in the economy of Indian life, or for that matter, of human life. First and foremost, food is considered to be number 1 of the classic triumvirate, namely, the three basic necessities of life. Such being the case, it behoves us that we should pay our utmost attention and consideration to this subject. The teeming millions of this province and of India, nay, the untold billions of this world of ours, have already outstripped the means of subsistence. At every door-step we find a wolf—a devilish wolf indeed. We are already put on short commons; tomorrow you may have to go even without it. When I say 'we', I say it advisedly—not merely the members of this august House, but also the rich and the poor in the country, all strata of society, high and low, man, woman and child, everybody may be denied totally the means of subsistence by which we could keep our body and soul together.

"Sir, save the hon. Member, Dr. Rajan, other members placed before this House suggestions for the increase of production through land alone. I would like to submit that there are other spheres as well. We can tap our food supply not only from the land, but also to a very large extent from the sea—not only from the sea, you will be surprised if I say, we can derive our supplies even from the air. I will explain to you later on how we can derive our supplies from air as well. Sir, in this statement—under item No. 4—I find four subdivisions, the first being, bringing new areas under food crops, next, increasing double crop cultivation and then cultivation during the off-season and so on. On this point, I would like to draw the attention of this House that in India, the total cultivable waste land is 110 lakhs of acres, but in our Presidency alone, according to statistics, I find there are still 10 lakhs of acreage which will be amenable to the plough. It is therefore high time for us all to devise ways and means of bringing such a vast tract of land which is lying waste and barren under the plough, to make it yield a good amount of food supply for our people,

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"Then coming to increase in double-crop cultivation, Sir, I would like to tell this House why we intend to stop with double-crop cultivation alone. In the Lalgudi taluk of the Trichinopoly district—my neighbouring district—one energetic agricultural demonstrator has shown practically that he could raise three crops, provided a regulated water-supply is assured; and there he has further shown, breaking all records, that an acre can yield 1,500 to 2,000 tons of paddy. And, Sir, in that third crop he has raised, not paddy, but some other corn. I wonder why this example is not followed even in the taluks of the same district or in the other districts. Of course, I know that every soil is not so rich, but I do not think this particular soil is very much rich. There might be tracts of land equally rich which might produce the same amount of paddy.

"Secondly, in regard to the diverting of areas under non-food crops to food crops, I would like very much to suggest that we will have, at least for some time to come, to scrap all commercial—the so-called commercial—or cash crops which yield money on the spot; but, we are not for money just at this juncture. We are for food for our people. I have prepared a table which shows the acreage under such cultivation under four headings according to districts—and if the Press want it, I shall be very glad to give it—viz., groundnut, cotton, sugarcane and tobacco. These are all cash crops, excepting perhaps groundnut and to some extent sugarcane, but I will tell this House how we can minimise the use of sugar. Groundnut is advocated by many people as an edible article, but only manual labourers can digest and assimilate groundnut. Over 80 or 90 per cent of it is oil or fat which taxes the liver to a very large extent and so it is not a food for children or for elderly people or for people with delicate stomach. Anyway as a sort of subsidiary food, if you grow a little of it here and there, it will suffice for the purpose.

"Coming to cotton, Sir, some people might argue that we are facing a cloth famine also and as such it will not be advisable for us to scrap cotton altogether. But, Sir, if we have to live in this world and keep our body and soul together, we will have to think of clothing only after food. Supposing we shuffle off our mortal coil, then where is the question of apparel at all. Therefore, at least for one year, till we are able to tide over this crisis, I would very strongly suggest, as it has been done in Bengal in 1942-43, that all the cotton area should be scrapped.

"Coming to sugarcane, Sir, we can indent our sugar from places like Java. Even if we are not able to get sufficient quantities, I would suggest another very feasible method. I hope and believe that the popular Government are going to introduce prohibition very soon. Such being the case, we can solve the difficulty in this manner. The palmvra juice should not be allowed to ferment and before it gets fermented, it should be converted into jaggery which has got very many virtues over the so-called refined white sugar and everyone must be made to partake this sugar. So I do not see any difficulty in leaving off the sugar area.

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“ Sir, I come last to tobacco. As a medical man, I would very strongly urge that tobacco is injurious to the human system. Sir, I will tell the House an experiment which I myself did a few years ago to find out the poisonous character of tobacco. A very sturdy cobra was caught and brought before us once and a little snuff killed it and this tobacco is also an antidote for cobra poison—and for the benefit of this House I am giving this recipe, if the Chair will permit me to do so, since it is a question of saving human life. It is this. If one tobacco leaf is made into decoction and given to the patient, it saves his life. It has been tried, not once or twice, but in a number of cases. The patient at once vomits, the poison some how or other comes out and the patient is saved. If at all tobacco is allotted any plot, it should be allotted for this purpose and not for any other purpose. Sir, medical authorities will tell you that tobacco chewing has been responsible for a number of cases of cancer of the tongue and it has worked havoc in the human system in a variety of ways. For these reasons I would very strongly urge that these non-food areas should be converted here and now into food areas. I have totalled up the acreage under the abovementioned four headings and the total acreage for this province is 42 lakhs of acres under non-food.

“ Sir, in Cuddapah there is only one jaggery co-operative society. I would suggest that jaggery societies should spring up throughout the length and breadth of this province, thereby providing this vital article of food to each and everybody.

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“ Sir, with regard to extensive cultivation, I would like to say this. Our district, viz., Tanjore, under the Grow More Food campaign was able to have an extra area of paddy of 61,511 acres; under other food crops, we had 29,979 acres. It was due to the great drive of the energetic Collector of the district in whose hands the whole scheme was at the time. I wish every other Collector takes a leaf out of this and brings to bear a similar drive in the direction.

“ Under third crop, in Lalgudi 150 acres were cultivated in 1942-43. In an acre 2,000 lb. were raised in one village and 18,000 pounds of additional quantity of paddy and 5,500 pounds of cholam were raised in 35 acres. Rao Sahib B. Rajagopal Pillai was responsible for this great increase and he deserves our mead of praise.

“ I fear my hon. Friend Mr. Farookhi Sahib gave wrong figures with regard to cattle. The total human population of this sub-continent is 400 millions, but our bovine population is just half of it, so that for every two people, we have either a cow, bull, calf or a buffalo. But the physical condition of the cattle in our country is very poor. The food famine among the cattle is much worse than the famine which we are facing and which we are likely to face to-morrow. Regarding the quality of milk, it is of the poorest kind on the face of the globe. Germany which has only a sixth of our bovine population gets an yield equal to ours. That is so far as quantity goes. Bovine tuberculosis is rampant among our cattle.

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Indians are labouring under certain hoary-headed meaningless sentiments; and if we are a little reasonable, what we should do is that the surplus cattle should be decimated. In our country the number of cattle per acre is 67; in China the number is 15 and in Japan it is only 7. The inference is that the cattle cannot turn out as much work as they ought to. I suggest that instead of keeping these bags of bones, living anatomies, it is much better we decimate them, so that the rest may be properly fed. The dearth of fodder is very largely due to the large number of cattle. This question of fodder also calls for our attention. We should try to introduce various other kinds of fodder for the cattle and I believe lucerne which is grown in large quantities in Mysore can be introduced in our province. Now that other uses have been found for oil cakes, it is desirable that we should think of other kinds of cattle food as well."

MR. CHAIRMAN (SRI K. NATARAJAN) :—" I would remind the hon. Member that he is exceeding the time-limit."

KHAN BAHADUR SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I am the last man in my group and I would appeal to you to give me a little more time. Besides, I believe there are only a few other members who are likely to take part in the debate; I would, therefore, crave your indulgence for a little more time."

" The Indian diet, especially that of the middle class man or the lower middle class man and the poor man is really very poor and is a lop-sided diet; there is rather too much of starch and it is deficient in vitamins and proteins. Rice is nothing but pure starch as people are in the habit of taking milled rice and in some cases the rice is polished even twice, with the result that the life-giving substances are ground away and get mixed with the bran. The best form will be par-boiled hand-pounded rice. In hand-pounding there is no danger of the germ being destroyed and this carries high class protein and vitamins. Also it is necessary to supplement rice diet with fish, egg, wheat, vegetables and fruits. Wheat is known to be the king of all grains and wheat-eating increases the stamina of the individual. We can very well see what kind of physique the northerner possesses and the poor specimen of humanity that we of the rice eating districts are. There are other factors, of course, which go to build a sturdy physique, but food is one of the chief factors. In addition, for healthy living we require milk and egg; an egg nourishes every part of the body, every cell of the body, the flesh, the bone, the blood and brain and nerve. It is as a divine dispensation that such elements are kept locked up within the shell to feed the growing chick for twenty days. Milk also nourishes every part of the infant, whether the human infant or the calf. These are very important to supplement and enrich our food; and how are we going to make them available to the people? Regarding the question of egg, we can solve it very easily and that is by encouraging poultry farming. Every non-vegetarian will have no objection to have a poultry farm in his own house; the cost is insignificant—it may be a few rupees at the

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most—and he may be able to get say half a dozen eggs for a day and that will meet his household requirement.

“As regards growing vegetables and fruits, my suggestion is that every one owning a compound should do away with that luxury of crotons and flower beds; these things should be scraped. I will not mind even if legislation is undertaken for that purpose and every householder is compelled to raise his own vegetables. I realize there will be difficulty in raising English vegetables except tomatoes. This is very rich in vitamins, it contains vitamin A, B and C and is at the same time a fruit and a vegetable and can grow anywhere and can yield bumper crops in a month or two. Country vegetables can be grown without much difficulty in one's own compound.

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“Fish is another thing that can supplement food. There are three types of fisheries, inshore fishery, land fishery and deep sea fishery. These kinds of fisheries are very little touched, much less developed in our province. The fishermen population is steadily growing less, both inland and in the coastal cities. Government must try to find out the reason and try to improve their condition. For deep-sea fishing we require ocean-going vessels of say from 400 to 1,000 tons. Many such small ships would be scraped after the war and it must be possible to get a number of them for our province for the purpose of deep-sea fishing. Regarding inshore fishing, we shall have to give encouragement to the fishermen who live in the seashore towns in our province. As regards inland fisheries in tanks, rivers and lakes, and even in paddy fields, there are methods of rearing fish. Fish is a very superior kind of food which contains many essential elements and also vitamin A and D. Sir, I have no time to go into details, though I have some practical suggestions with regard to development of fish. I am sorry I cannot go further into it now.

“Sir, with regard to food from air, Dr. Wilcocks, a great authority in America, has found out, you will be surprised to know, a method of raising crops from soilless air. We here cannot understand how without soil a crop can be raised. With certain technique, a family is able to raise its own crop sufficient for its needs. So far it has not become successful on a large scale; but he says, for individuals and small families it is successful. Similarly, Sir, there is a method found out in America, and some other Western countries also, of multiplying the crops by what they call colchicine treatment. It is an Indian drug. It is available with drug vendors in Madras. It is a Unani drug. It is called ‘Suranjan.’ A decoction of it is made, and the buds and other parts of the plant are smeared with this decoction, and sometimes even the plants are injected with colchicine solution, so much so a marvellous crop is raised through such stimulation.

“Besides, Sir, with regard to cloth, I am told a new stuff called ‘Nylon’ has been found. It is a glass-like yarn, which has one-fifteenth thickness of human hair. It has been found, to resist heat and cold, and it is so cheap that you can cast it off after wearing it for a few days and go in for a new apparel. Synthetic

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silk has also been found very useful, and it is abnormally cheap. Sir, I would request this Government to institute an inquiry into this new-fledged, I will not say new-fangled, discoveries and inventions to see how far we could take early advantage of them.

"Sir, as regards the draft proposals placed before the House by the Hon. Premier, I would like to say only one thing. The present machinery is only two or three years old. It has been functioning with the best of intentions; and of the officials who are manning that machinery, with my personal knowledge as far as the Food Department is concerned, I can say, we have at the top a galaxy of officers who are fired with enthusiasm and zeal and who have got a very keen sense of duty about them, who think day-in and day-out to find out by what method people can best be served. Of course, no human machinery is perfect, as we know, Sir. Will it not be easier for this Government to overhaul the existing machinery or to rectify it wherever it is needed, instead of creating a new one? We are not experts in that line. I believe the Treasury Bench also will not profess that they are experts in creating machineries, because several of them, if not all, are novices in this direction. I would request them to take up the existing machinery, rectify it or overhaul it as much as possible. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat."

MR. CHAIRMAN (SRI K. NATARAJAN):—"There are yet four or five hon. Members who want to speak, and then an opportunity should be given to the Government to reply. So there is no time for all these to-day. Hence the House will now adjourn and meet at five o'clock in the evening to-morrow."

(Two members: 'We can't hear you. Please arrange to have loud-speakers in this House also.')

II.—HOURS OF SITTING.

ABDUL LATEEF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Before we disperse, may I make one submission? It is very inconvenient for members to come in the evening here, particularly on days when the Assembly is in session. Because some of us who want to hear the debate in the other House, come here in the morning, sit all day there and come here in the evening, and we feel this very inconvenient. So also for the Treasury Bench, it would not be convenient for them, after being in the other House the whole day, to sit here in the evening. So far as this session is concerned, it does not matter. Hereafter, I beg to submit, whenever there is a sitting of the Assembly, on that day there should be no meeting of the Council. That is generally done in the Central Legislature. Even on days when the Council of State sat only for 5 minutes, for very few members took part in the debate, contrary to what we see here—here there is more life—the Assembly did not meet. I think we can adopt that practice. That is my submission, Sir. I hope the Premier will consider this question."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"That point we can decide later. As regards the present session, as several members wished to take part in the debate, it has become fairly long."